GCE Statistics practice questions

GCE AS and A level Statistics are new qualifications for Edexcel, and this means that we don't have a bank of past papers on which to draw when providing free support for the new specifications.

We have put together some practice tests using questions taken from the Statistics units in Edexcel GCE Maths past papers.

These questions are **not** intended to exemplify the assessment model in the new specifications. This means they do not exemplify the new AO3 assessment objective, nor do they reflect the new requirements on calculator use. By their nature, questions for the GCE Statistics specification focus more on real-life, practical skills than do questions from the legacy GCE Mathematics specification.

Any questions that are overly 'mathematical' would not apply in the new specification, but there are still many useful questions that will allow students to gain extra practice at some of the procedures required. Teachers should be aware of this, and use these questions carefully with their students, mindful that the specifications' requirement of the use of a calculator to obtain statistical probabilities will greatly influence both the mark scheme and the questions themselves, which will incorporate far more interpretive and critical skills.

The questions have been arranged by unit in the new specifications, but the tests are not intended to cover the whole of each specification unit, simply to provide some **extra practice** material on the topics covered.

The mapping document has been updated to include both Edexcel GCE Maths and AQA GCE Statistics past paper questions relevant for each section.

We are unable to share AQA past papers, but these can be found on and downloaded from their website.

For a flavour of the more interpretive angle that the new GCE Statistics offers, please refer to the **Sample Assessment Materials** (**here**).

In particular, the following questions might be of interest:

AS level	
Paper 1	
Q2	Addresses the Statistical Enquiry Cycle and also the new 'target audience' requirement in a simple way. Presents results from a calculator for candidates to use.
Q6	A standard chi test, with very little 'doing' (to reflect the lower proportion of AO1 marks) but with more emphasis on criticising and interpreting.
Paper 2	
Q2	Use of spreadsheets.
Q5	Example of an 'open' question where students decide on an approach, with many possible 'correct' solutions.

A level	
Paper 1	
Q2	Assessing visual representation.
Q6	Standard linear combinations question, but with more interpretation/criticism.
Q11	More open question, requiring candidates to address the new 'target audience' requirement.
Paper 2	
Q2	Inference question requiring candidates to outline procedure required, rather than carry out a test.
Paper 3	
Q1	Cohen's *d* and effect size (new topic)
Q3	Spreadsheet output involved

Exemplar student answers with examiner comments will be released in autumn 2018.